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“My Philosophy of Education”

My experiences with helping children in the classroom is what made me want to go into the career of early childhood education and special education. My mom was an aide in the learning support classroom from when I was in fourth grade until my junior year. I was constantly in the classroom helping other students with homework when I had reached my high school years. I also was involved in a little buddies mentoring program. In this program, I helped at risk students in Greenville Area School District. On the very first day after meeting my little buddy, I knew that I was meant to be of service to young children. This desire grew, helping me realize that I want to work with young children as an elementary teacher. I want to help children who do not come from the best homes and help them fall in love with learning as much as I have. I want them to reach their full potential and see how much they can truly accomplish. I want to be the person that cares about each of my students and pushes them to be the best they can be. As a teacher, I want to instill the love for learning in each of my students. I want to create a respectful and safe environment where each of my students feel they can express themselves openly.

I believe schools should provide students with a safe ambience and learning options no matter what social class and ethnic they come from. I believe that education should provide students information about economic and social skills without trying to refine them to society. Schools are provided to help teach skills and subjects and encourage self-definition through experience. Through education, students should have the chance to be in classes that teach fine arts, health, history, and social skills along with the more focus on the curriculum of reading, science, and mathematics. A quote, by an unknown author, I hold close to my heart about how I feel a teacher should be in the classroom is, “teachers should take a hand, open a mind, and touch a heart.” This quote puts everything I believe in, into one sentence. I want to prepare them for

their future, whether that's going to college, a trade school, military, or right into the working field.

As a teacher, I can make a difference in a student's life by teaching to their individual needs and goals and creating an engaging and respectful environment. When students leave my classroom, I want them to feel like a part of the community. I also know that it is important to meet the standards the state has in place. I want to make memorable activities and create a deeper understanding of the topics I will need to teach in my classroom. I believe by using real-world problems/experiences this will allow my students to make a personal connection to what we are learning causing them to understand more deeply.

Reading is an important skill for everyone to have but I want to incorporate other subjects into my reading lessons. For example, while teaching reading they can learn about history and science. I want to use a language arts approach. I am going to have the students to be involved with the vocabulary words and to learn about history and social studies even though they are becoming lesser subjects. I would like to use age appropriate books to help teach the curriculum. I can use these books to find vocabulary words and spelling words. I can also use these to help the students learn comprehension and summarization skills. I want to have a Rose Model way of teaching. This is where subjects can be intertwined with one another. This allows you to use information that you know from other subjects to learn something new. I have learned so much about how literature can be placed in all subjects. I also have a minor in science and would love to make that a focus in my classroom. This will allow me to create hands-on experiences for my students along with showing them how connected each subject is to one another. They do not only have to excel in one subject. They can excel at all of them in different ways.

Since my little buddy experience, it has become one of my many objectives to help children develop a desire to learn. However, I want to do much more than just teach them how to read and write, I want to help them develop the desire to be lifelong learners, positive members of their communities, and contributing citizens of our society. To accomplish this, I must think beyond being a highly skilled and informed educator. My mission must include becoming a leader within the education community. John Quincy Adams once said, "If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader." I understand that being a leader does not always mean that you are the biggest, best, most visible or the loudest. It means that you lead by example, dreaming big dreams and setting forth a plan to accomplish them, inspiring others to reach personal and/or group goals, and creating a culture of teamwork as well as high quality individual work. Through my work ethic, desire to be a lifelong learner, and an exceptional teacher, I can model the way for my students as well as other educators.

In my classroom, I would like to have a student-centered environment. Students are guided by the teacher in the topics they are learning. I want my students to take some control of the authority in the classroom. The students will have some say in what they would like to do by having options to show their understanding of units gone over in class. For example, writing a research paper or creating a diorama including a short paper explaining its significance. I want to create opportunities and options for my students to create some independence and responsibility. I know students can help create rules. This will help the students be more aware of them and more likely to follow. By using this strategy, I can enforce my goal of having my students be an active participant in the community. Also, the students will be able to take charge in their own

learning. I wrote a research paper on teacher-centered teaching and learner-centered teaching. I had more fun and so did my students when I taught a lesson that had focused on my students.

Assessments should reflect the knowledge the students have gained about a topic. This is where the student should have some say in how he/she expresses their knowledge. I think the teacher should give a rubric and options on what needs to be presented and a general idea of how it should look but also leave some room for the students to be creative. Summative tests will be formal when needed but also can allow the students to use their imagination and produce something that shows their understanding through something memorable. Grades should reflect how well the student presents and understand the topics. This is where the rubric with clear objectives come in handy. I also believe you should check for understanding through formative tests. They may not be graded, but can be utilized to make sure the students are following along and understanding what you are teaching before moving on to the next step in the teacher's lesson plan.

Classroom environment is very important to me. If I want my students to do their best work, I need them to feel safe and comfortable. I want to give them some say in how they do things in the classroom but in a way where I guide them. The relationships I build with my students should be a mutual respect and caring. I will be consistent with my students when it comes to class rules. I want them to be comfortable expressing themselves, but I want them to respect others. I also want to keep a professional relationship with the parents. I would like to communicate with them on what is going on in the classroom and how their child is doing.

A good lesson is flexible and written step by step. It has questions written within to check for understanding throughout. I will read or even have written out the goals and expectations I

would like the students to meet by the end of the lesson. By asking questions throughout, I keep the students involved. I also would like to use a hook at the beginning of instruction to keep them engaged during the lesson. My lesson will try to meet as many intelligences as possible along with adjustments for the students who need extra help.

I believe professional responsibility is incorporated in all of these topics. You should be responsible for all of your actions. You need to keep in touch with families, so they know what is going on in the classroom. I believe you should keep a professional relationship with your co-workers and take in consideration their suggestions. I also want to keep improving my education and going to programs that will help better me as a teacher. Teachers should dress business casual and keep a respectful environment. I want my students, co-workers, and the parents of my students to see me as a professional. I want them to understand how important my job is to me. I will show them I can keep my beliefs and feelings as separate from my teaching as I possibly can.

Overall, I want my students to come out of my classroom feeling like a part of the community, have reached their full potential academically, and feel like they can take responsibility of their education. They should feel like they can set goals and accomplish them. I want them to be as creative as possible and show me how they know the knowledge being taught. My students should feel comfortable enough to be themselves in the classroom. Professionally, I hope to learn from my co-workers. I want to communicate with families about how their child is doing and what their child is doing in the classroom. My goal in teaching to help as many at risk students feel like they can be anything they want to be and successfully contribute to society.

Reference

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